

United States Comments

Terrestrial Animal Health Standards Commission March 2008 Report

APPENDIX 3.4.1.

HYGIENE AND BIOSECURITY PROCEDURES IN POULTRY PRODUCTION

Article 3.4.1.1.

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Article 3.4.1.3

Recommendations applicable to catching and transportation of poultry

1. Personnel involved in the catching of the birds need to be adequately trained in bird handling and basic hygiene procedures.
2. Poultry should not be unduly stressed during the catching and transportation process. Reducing the light intensity or using blue light can help to calm the birds and reduce stress.
3. Poultry should be transported to the slaughter house or to markets in well ventilated *containers*, and not be over crowded.
4. *Containers* and vehicles ~~need to~~ should be cleaned and sanitized between each use.

<p><u>Rationale:</u> replacing the words “need to” with “should” keeps all points in this Article consistent.</p>

5. Poultry should not be exposed to extreme temperatures.

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Article 3.4.1.6.

Sanitization of hatching eggs and hatchery equipment

1. The clean eggs should be sanitized as soon as possible after collection. The methods of sanitization are described below.
2. The sanitized eggs should be stored in a clean, dust free room used exclusively for this purpose and kept at a temperature of 13-15°C (55°-60°F) and at a relative humidity of 70-80%.
3. The eggs should be transported to the hatchery in new or clean packing material which have been fumigated or sanitized with a liquid disinfectant (see Table I). The cleaning and *disinfection* of *vehicles* must be a regular part of the hatchery routine.
4. Sanitization means:
 - a) fumigation with formaldehyde, or

General Comment on the recommended use of formaldehyde:

Formaldehyde and Para formaldehyde are well known carcinogens, and their use imposes a large liability risk to an employer. The use of formaldehyde requires full safety equipment as well as monitoring badges to monitor the amount of exposure to personnel. The United States strongly recommends that the OIE mention or refer to the precautionary measures necessary to protect humans when working with formaldehyde.

- b) spraying with or immersion in an eggshell disinfectant in accordance with the manufacturers instructions, or
- c) made hygienic by another method approved by the *Veterinary Authority*.

Formaldehyde gas has been used for many years for the *disinfection* of *hatching eggs* and hatchery equipment. As a fumigant, formaldehyde gas has proved to be a very effective means of destroying micro-organisms on eggs, egg packing material, chick boxes, hatching machines and other hatchery equipment, provided these items have been subjected to preliminary cleaning. When the correct mixture of formalin and potassium permanganate is used, a dry brown powder will remain after the reaction is completed.

At the present time, there is lack of uniform opinion on the optimum concentration of formaldehyde required for the sanitization of eggs and hatchery equipment. In general, three levels of concentration have been used. Also, two methods of use have been adopted.

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